

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT O 00449 152049Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 SIL-01 IGA-02 AID-05 SS-15 CU-02

LAB-04 /048 W

-----160125Z 053213 /70

R 151930Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 339

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT OF SPAIN 0449

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, EAID, AIFLD, TD

SUBJECT: PROPOSED AIFLD LOAN TO UNION OF COMMERCIAL
AND INDUSTRIAL WORKERS

REF: STATE 27590

I AM DISAPPOINTED THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAS NOT SUPPORTED THE EMBASSY'S VIEW ON THE PROPOSED AIFLD ACTIVITIES IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO. SINCE IT APPEARS THAT A DECISION HAS ALREADY BEEN MADE TO APPROVE THE AIFLD LOAN IN QUESTION, I DO NOT WISH TO CONTINUE A FRUITLESS DEBATE. AT THE SAME TIME, HOWEVER, I DO WISH TO REITERATE SEVERAL POINTS OF CONCERN WHICH WERE REFLECTED IN THE EMBASSY'S POSITION AND WHICH WILL CONTINUE TO BE VALID, EVEN IF THE LOAN IS APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

A) AIFLD ACTIVITIES IN THE CARIBBEAN AND IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO ARE AN INAPPROPRIATE USE OF U.S.G. FUNDS TO SUPPORT ONE PARTICULAR SECTOR WITHIN OTHER COUNTRIES. THE FACT THAT THE GOTT HAS MORE THAN AMPLE FUNDS TO FINANCE ACTIVITIES WITHIN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO MAKES THE USE OF U.S. TAX PAYERS' MONEY FOR SUCH ACTIVITIES HERE EVEN MORE OBJECTIONABLE.

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PAGE 02 PORT O 00449 152049Z

B) THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, WHICH IS AT LEAST EQUIALLY IMPORTANT TO THE INTERESTS OF THE U.S., CERTAINLY NEITHER APPRECIATES NOR APPROVES OF AIFLD ACTIVITIES TO STRENGTHEN THE TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO LABOR MOVEMENT. THE VIEWS OF THIS GROUP IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO (AS WELL AS THE U.S. BUSINESS COMMUNITY WHICH WAS NOTICEABLE BY ITS ABSENCE FROM

THE LIST OF ORGANIZATIONS CONSULTED ABOUT THE PROGRAM
IN PARAGRAPH 2 OF REFTEL) SHOULD BE GIVEN PROPER WEIGHT
IN THE CONSIDERATION OF PROGRAMS WHICH MAY HARM OUR
RELATIONS WITH THIS IMPORTANT SECTOR.

C) THE ATTITUDES OF THE GOTT AND THE PRIME MINISTER
TOWARD ACTIVITIES BY FOREIGN ORGANIZATIONS WITHIN T&T
ARE NEITHER CONSISTENT NOR PREDICTABLE. ALTHOUGH OUR
PRESENT READING IS THAT GOTT WOULD NOT OBJECT TO
THE AIFLD LOAN, THE EXISTENCE OF ANY AIFLD PROGRAMS
HERE LEAVES THE U.S.G. OPEN TO CHARGES OF INTERFERENCE
IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF T&T. IN THIS CONNECTION
SHOULD NOT THE CONCURRENCE OF THE MINISTER OF LABOR
BE OBTAINED IN ADVANCE? AT SOME FUTURE DATE, THE
GOTT MAY AGAIN USE AIFLD AS AN EXAMPLE OF OUTSIDE
MEDDLING TO THE DETRIMENT OF OUR BILATERAL
RELATIONS AND OTHER U.S. INTERESTS IN TRINIDAD
AND TOBAGO.

FAY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, LOANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decapton Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770240/aaaabjpv.tel
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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TAGS: ELAB, EAID, TD, US, AIFLD
To: STATE
Type: TE
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